

**March 16, 2001****Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan****Noxious Weeds**

Noxious weeds are non-native plants defined by Washington's primary noxious weed law, Chapter 17.10 RCW, as any plant which, when established, is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices. Noxious weeds destroy native plants and wildlife habitats, clog waterways, impact agricultural lands and recreation areas, and can be poisonous to humans and animals.

The Washington State Noxious Weed list (WAC 16-750) is updated every year. The weeds are categorized into three major classes: A, B and C according to the seriousness of the threat they pose to the state or a region of the state. Class A weeds have a limited distribution in the state and eradication is required by state law. Class B weeds are established in some regions of Washington, but are of limited distribution or not present in other regions. Because of these distribution differences, treatment of Class B weeds varies. In areas where a Class B is unrecorded or of limited distribution, prevention of seed production is required. These weeds are a "Class B designate," meaning it is designated for control by state law. If a Class B is already abundant or widespread, control is decided at the local level (county weed board), with containment as the primary goal. Class C weeds are already widely established in the state and placement on the weed list allows counties to enforce control or simply provide education or technical consultation.

At this time there are no known occurrences of Class A weeds in the planning area. Class C weeds may occur but do not require control. See the Whatcom County Noxious Weed List on page L-3 for a complete list of Class A, B and C weeds listed for the county.

The following table lists those Class B weeds that exist in the planning area and required controls. Of those listed, only Tansy ragwort and Scotch broom are known to occur on state trust land within the planning area. Tansy ragwort and Scotch broom are found along the BPA powerline corridor in the eastern portion of the planning area.

Noxious Weed	Class/Subclass	Control
Purple loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> )	Class B Designate	Washington State Weed Board requires control -- prevention of seed fall with the goal of containment and eventual eradication.
Tansy ragwort ( <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> )	Class B county selected	Whatcom County Weed Board has selected to be controlled in the same manner as Class B Designate
orange hawkweed ( <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> )	Class B county selected	Whatcom County Weed Board has selected to be controlled in the same manner as Class B Designate
Scotch broom ( <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> )	Class B weed	Does not require control due to being too common for effective county-wide control.

The following provides a brief description and more specific control measures for these weeds. Additional information can be found on the Washington State Weed Board web site at [www.wa.gov/agr/weedboard](http://www.wa.gov/agr/weedboard).

Purple loosestrife: Purple loosestrife is a perennial aquatic plant that aggressively invades wetlands, replacing cattails, sedges and other native species. Seeds float to new areas or are carried by recreational and highway vehicles and wildlife such as waterfowl. It forms dense stands with mature plants reaching 10 feet tall with purple-magenta flowers. Hand pulling is ineffective due to extensive root connections. If infestation is minor, flowers may cut off. The herbicide Glyphosate (Rodeo) provides good control. Spray when flowers are blooming for best effect.

Tansy ragwort: Tansy ragwort is toxic, and can be lethal to cattle and horses. Tansy will establish in disturbed sites that include roadsides, pastures, and recently harvested timber sites. Clusters of bright yellow daisy-like flowers form with each head containing 13 petals. Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) is similar but has a button-like flower head and a strong, pungent odor. New or minor infestations can be hand pulled or sprayed with herbicide (2,4-D) but this is a long-term commitment because seeds survive 15 years in the soil. Spray herbicides prior to flowering as seeds will continue to develop even after spraying. If infestation is extensive, biological control insects are usually recommended.

Orange hawkweed: Orange hawkweed is low growing with a flower that is red on the margins merging into a orange-colored center. It is usually found in meadows, pastures and along roadsides. It spreads by both seed and rhizomes so hand pulling is not effective. Spray with herbicide (2,4-D) prior to flowering.

Scotch broom: Control using herbicides or mechanical means. It will grow back if just cutting. A recommended, yet labor intensive, method is to cut off approx. 1' above the ground and strip the bark off the stump.

[Add Noxious Weed list](#)